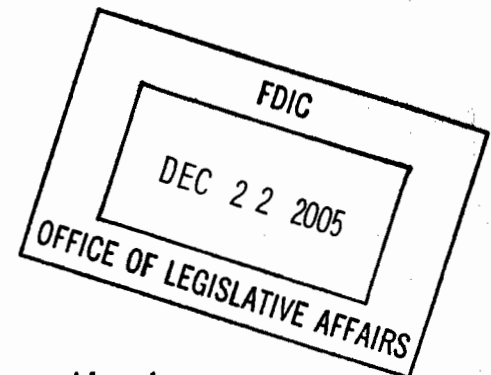


**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 21, 2005

The Honorable Martin J. Gruenberg  
Acting Chairman  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
550 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20429



Dear Chairman Gruenberg:

We are writing to urge the FDIC to hold public hearings as it considers the application that has been filed on behalf of Wal-Mart Bank for federal deposit insurance. The application before you is part of Wal-Mart's pending application for a Utah industrial loan company ("ILC") charter.

While we have made no substantive evaluation of the merits of the application, the sheer, unprecedented volume of comments the FDIC has received in relation to this application evidences the public interest in the application, and strongly suggests that a hearing is warranted.

Over 1,500 interested parties have submitted comment letters on Wal-Mart's application, many voicing concern that the public does not have access to crucial details concerning Wal-Mart's intended use of the ILC. It is our belief that the FDIC, which serves as an invaluable source of public trust in the US banking system, must make every effort as it considers this application, to maintain that trust through an open and transparent evaluation process.

We appreciate the FDIC's continued commitment to ensuring the safety and soundness of America's banking system.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of E. Johnson.

Handwritten signature of Tom Rags.

Handwritten signature of Harry Reid.